United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

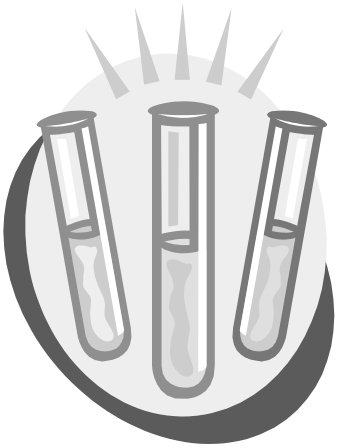
Illinois Indiana
Michigan Minnesota
Ohio Wisconsin

# Soil Treatment Progresses at Baker Wood Creosoting Site

## Marion, Ohio June 2001

**This fact sheet:**

- **describes the progress of the soil cleanup.**
- **outlines U.S. EPA's upcoming priorities.**
- **lists sources for further information.**



## INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has returned to the Baker Wood Creosoting Site in Marion, Ohio, to resume treating creosote-contaminated soil. Over the winter months, the treatment technology, called bioremediation, worked naturally on piles of soil stored on site. U.S. EPA will continue this soil cleanup through fall. U.S. EPA will also continue to examine ways to clean up contamination in the Little Scioto River and North Rockswale Ditch.

## SOIL CLEANUP

Bioremediation was started up again in May. This is the active mixing of nutrients with approximately 3,000 tons of contaminated soil. The soil will be mixed weekly and will continue through summer and fall. The nutrients, which consist of liquid fertilizer and water, will be added as needed. Naturally occurring microorganisms will use the contamination as "food." The nutrients act as another food source for the microorganisms to accelerate the breakdown from hazardous substances to non-hazardous substances. Samples will be collected every six weeks through mid-October to ensure that the bioremediation, or breakdown, of contamination occurs as planned. In addition to soil mixing, rain water is also being pumped from low areas onto the piles to speed up the bioremediation as the extra moisture helps bacteria grow. Since rain water collects in the western end of the containment area, the piles have been moved slightly to the east.

Before the cleanup could begin again, water samples were collected in March from five on-site monitoring wells. Low levels of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are common at creosote sites like Baker Wood, were found. Soil samples taken from each pile on site also showed lower levels of PAHs. Because it appears that the total level of contamination on the site has been reduced by 60 percent in a year's time, the soil cleanup could be completed this year.

## LITTLE SCIOTO RIVER, NORTH ROCKSWALE DITCH ASSESSMENTS

Assessments of the Little Scioto River and North Rockswale Ditch indicate that about 4 miles of the river and a half mile of the ditch are contaminated with creosote-related compounds such as PAHs. The heaviest amount of contamination in the river is in a 2-mile stretch beginning at the Holland Road bridge and going downstream (south). U.S. EPA has determined that high-volume pumping techniques and the actual removal of affected sediment will clean up this contamination. Treatment technologies that have been used to clean up other contaminated waterways are still being studied. The cost of this river cleanup is estimated at $10 million.

## NEXT STEPS

U.S. EPA is pursuing additional funding to pay for this cleanup. U.S. EPA will also consult with other agencies, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard, which have extensive experience in river cleanups. U.S. EPA will continue to keep the community informed about progress made at the Baker Wood Creosoting Site, as well as at the Little Scioto River and North Rockswale Ditch.

Nearby residents are still encouraged to report trespassers to the Marion County Sheriff's Police Department. Although the gate to the site will be unlocked so vehicles may enter and exit throughout the day, it will be locked overnight. Trespassing on a federal Superfund site is a serious offense.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about the Baker Wood Creosoting Site or would like to be added to the site mailing list, please contact:


Susan Pastor
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. EPA (P-19J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-1325
1-800-621-8431
pastor.susan@epa.gov

Mark Durno
On-Scene Coordinator
U.S. EPA (ME-W)
25089 Center Ridge Road
Westlake, OH 44145
(440) 250-1743 *(new phone #)*
durno.mark@epa.gov


As reports are developed in relation to the cleanup, they will be placed in an Administrative Record file at the Marion Public Library, 445 East Church Street, Marion. The Administrative Record file will contain detailed information upon which cleanup decisions will be based.

A copy of this fact sheet and others can be downloaded from the EPA Region 5 website at http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites.


U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
Office of Public Affairs
77 West Jackson Boulevard (P-19)
Chicago, IL 60604-3590


*Address Correction Requested*